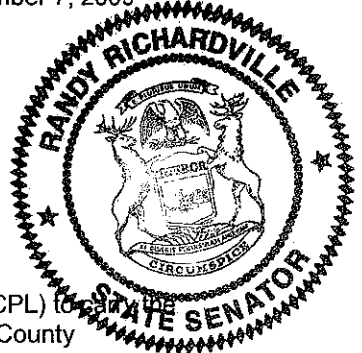


December 7, 2009

Senator Randy Richardville  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536



Dear Senator Richardville:

I support Senate Bill 747, which would allow persons with a Concealed Pistol License (CPL) to use means of self-defense on college campuses. As a full time faculty member at Monroe County Community College, I am concerned that under the current law, college campuses are nothing more than a "target rich environment" for any predator. Last year we were shown a video called "Shots Fired." This video encouraged us to take every action to defend ourselves if trapped by an assailant. The suggested actions included throwing books and chairs at the gunman, and attacking the gunman from different directions. This seemed inadequate at best.

For those who insist that colleges should depend on Uniformed Law Enforcement, I would point out that Monroe County Community College is not large university. As such, we do not have our own armed Department of Safety officers on patrol. We rely on local law enforcement. In our case, this is the Monroe County Sherriff's Department. Monroe County Community College is not located within the city or Monroe. We are approximately 5 miles from the city center and the local sheriff's department. MCCC is out in the country, with farm and woods on all sides of campus. The time required for law enforcement to respond to an emergency is a concern.

In previous campus shooting incidents, such as Columbine and Virginia Tech, laws prohibiting firearms on campus were already in place. These laws did nothing to deter the assailants. When someone is intent on committing a serious crime such as murder, the additional impact of a firearms violation is not a deterrent to them. In addition, assailants can use other lethal weapons, such as knives or baseball bats. Existing laws have served only to remove a means of self defense from law abiding citizens.

The State of Michigan requires that the holder of a CPL be at least 21 years of age, attend a training course, and pay \$105 for the license. A large number of younger students will not meet these requirements. Senate Bill 747 will not result in juveniles carrying their own firearms on campus.

There are other faculty members here who share this view. Your bill would correct a potentially dangerous situation, and give us back our ability to defend ourselves.

I would encourage the members of the Judiciary Committee to vote this bill to the floor for further debate. It addresses a potentially dangerous situation.

Regards

**Martin J. Dubois**  
Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Technology  
Monroe County Community College  
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December 7, 2009

Dear Senators Kuipers, Richardville and members of the Committee,



I am writing today in support of SB 747 (which would remove college classrooms and dormitories from the "pistol free" designation under Michigan Concealed Pistol License (CPL) law). I would also like to note that I support similar legislation proposed by Rep. LeBlanc (HB 4348) which would repeal *all* "pistol free" zones under Michigan law. In this letter, I would like to briefly explain why I support this legislation, and also discuss the weakness of the typical arguments offered by individuals who oppose it.

Why do I support SB 747? Simply put, I believe in the right of the individual to self-defense. Moreover, in my professional opinion, this bill has significant potential to prevent / minimize violence and to save lives. The sad reality is that school shootings, while rare, frequently lead to a tragic loss of life because the concealed carry laws (including the current law in Michigan) frequently disarms law abiding citizens on university campuses (while having no impact on the perpetrators of violent outbursts). We only need to think about the recent shootings at Virginia Tech University (April 16, 2007) and Northern Illinois University (February 14, 2008) to see how much damage an armed individual can cause when he opens fire in a "pistol free zone". Moreover, while mass shootings like Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois are rare, other violent crimes on university campuses are not. It seems fundamentally unjust that we should allow responsible, licensed, law abiding citizens to protect themselves in shopping malls, public parks, movie theatres and a variety of other locations, yet restrict those same rights on a university campus.

Please allow me to briefly review some of the key arguments for and against the establishment of "pistol free zones" and then to draw a final conclusion based on this my review:

- 1) The fact is, violent criminals simply ignore pistol free zones. This is basic logic: why would a criminal determined to carry out a homicide, armed robbery, or some other serious felony (which potentially carries a penalty of life in prison) be concerned with violating a concealed carry law which usually only rises to the level of a misdemeanor or violation? Time and time again, the evidence suggests that these restrictions simply mean that responsible, licensed, law abiding individuals end up disarmed, while those with criminal intent do not.
  - a) The recent massacre at Fort Hood, Texas provides perhaps the most dramatically tragic, and ironic, illustration of this principle. The shooter in this case, Major Hassan, quite obviously ignored the U.S. Military policy that forbids soldiers from carrying sidearms on military bases. Yet the law abiding soldiers who became his victims were left defenseless because of this policy. It took decisive action by a pair of armed civilian police officers to end Major Hassan's rampage, and protect the men and women charged with protecting our country.

licensed. With respect to such individuals, if we trust them to carry in shopping malls, movie theatres, parks etc. why not college campuses?

- a) On a personal note, I would like to ask why, if we consider judges and prosecutors to be responsible citizens who can be exempted from pistol free restrictions, why should that privilege not be extended to university professors and other academic professionals? In fact, I would argue that we should not create *any* special privileged classes of individuals who are somehow more worthy of protection, or who are considered uniquely responsible enough to protect themselves: we should instead extend this right to all individuals who have met the established criteria for licensing.
- 7) There is a fear that allowing CPL in college dorms will lead to an explosion of violence when college students begin "mixing guns and booze". In my opinion, this is highly unlikely to occur. I believe it unlikely that most licensed CPLs will bring firearms to "keg parties", or to other events where alcohol is being consumed. Every CPL is well aware that the legal limit while carrying is .02 (which is most likely reached through the consumption of less than one drink). Moreover, as stated above, CPLs are among the most law abiding groups in the country. Individuals who have gone through the licensing process will be unlikely to risk losing their licenses by "drinking while carrying".
- 8) I also consider it highly unlikely that the presence of armed CPLs will escalate minor campus arguments into violent, deadly confrontations. All CPLs are well aware that they can still be prosecuted for using deadly force where it is not appropriate. This is true regardless of whether an argument takes place on a university campus or in any other location. If this were a plausible risk, we would have seen minor arguments between CPLs and other citizens escalating into shootings in other situations and locations (arguing over parking spaces, waiting in line at the supermarket, arguing with a coworker); yet we very clearly have not. There is no reason to believe things will be any different on college campuses.
- 9) I believe it is unlikely that extension of CPL to college campuses would increase the suicide risk. Sadly, truly suicidal individuals will always find a means of killing themselves: they do not need to be CPLs, or to have access a firearm owned by a CPL. Because most CPLs take great care to store their firearms safely and responsibly, truly suicidal individual who wish to kill themselves with a gun will actually find it much easier to simply drive to their local retailer (Kmart or Walmart) and purchase a shotgun; or to use some alternative means to end their lives (hanging, slitting wrists, crashing their cars etc.). In making this statement I wish to emphasize that I *do not* wish to trivialize the serious and tragic problem of campus suicide. However, I do want to suggest that the proposed connection between CPL and suicide likely does not exist, and by extension, that if we think we are protecting the college age population from this risk by maintaining restrictions on CPL, we are kidding ourselves.
- 10) While there is no guarantee that the presence of armed CPLs will stop mass shootings (or other violent crime) in progress, and while I must admit that there is a risk that a CPL who uses his or her gun defensively might shoot an innocent bystander, it is worthwhile noting:

dissuade us from taking action to protect ourselves from violent crime that *does* in fact happen on university campuses every day.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Christopher A. Kierkus  
Assistant Professor  
and Undergraduate Criminal Justice Program Chair  
School of Criminal Justice  
Grand Valley State University

Comment by David Felbeck, legislative analyst for MCRGO:



SB 747 removes college classrooms and dormitories from the prohibited list for concealed pistol licensees. Many of the mass killings on college campuses have taken place in classrooms and dormitories. Why must we continue to maintain the fiction that these places would be safer if only criminals can be armed? Experience after experience has demonstrated that by the time the police show up, most of the damage has been done.

Colleges in Utah permit concealed carry everywhere, by state law, and to date there has been no mayhem of the sort that the nay-sayers always predict. We should pass a similar law before we have to face a mass killing at a Michigan college.

Much of the criticism has been leveled at the extreme youth of college students. These uninformed critics either don't know or don't want us to know that a licensee must be 21 years old, thus excluding most undergraduates. Further, the question of alcohol on campus is misplaced as most alcohol-related problems occur off campus at local bars.

The Judiciary Committee is urged to approve this important legislation. No mayhem has ever resulted from allowing concealed pistol licensees to be present, and none will happen here. We have over eight years of concealed carry in Michigan and none of the dire predictions has occurred.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

David K. Felbeck  
2060 Scottwood  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-994-6662  
felbeck@umich.edu



To the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing you in regards to your hearing for SB 747. I am unable to attend due to obligations but wanted my concerns to be heard. I have recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Criminology. For four years I have studied crime and its consequences, and what deters it. Also, as a student at EMU, I have been lucky to not be the subject of many dangerous situations that occur weekly on or around the EMU campus. Let me share with you a couple of incidents from last April:

*At approximately 1:30 a.m. on April 5, a group of five people including two EMU students left a party located in the 1200 block of Leforge Road when they were approached by two males brandishing semi-auto pistols. The group was advised to lie down on the ground and look in the other direction. The suspects went through the pockets of the victims taking cash, cellular phones, identification and jackets.*

*The second incident occurred at approximately 1:55 a.m. on April 5 near the Putnam Meters. This incident mirrored the Ypsilanti incident. In this incident a group of four male EMU students were walking home from the same party in the 1200 block of LeForge Road when they were approached in the same manner with the same results.*

This past January, there was an armed robbery in Sellers Hall right on campus. I was astounded by the sheer audacity of the perpetrators. They walked right inside a dormitory, thought by many to be a safe and secure place where student choose to live, and pulled a gun on some students. The students were robbed of their valuables. Even worse, the psychological effect of being robbed in your own home must be astounding. In this and the above incidents, the students were left helpless as they were victimized. As I stated, being the victim of a crime has profound negative psychological consequences. I have shared with you but a few of the crimes while I was in attendance. A quick review of the Department of Public Safety's online logs reveals even more crime on the college campus:

Case number 0900001619.10

Nature of crime CSC Ist Degree -Penetration Penis/Vagina

This crime was reported on 10/6/2009 at 22:54 hours.

This crime occurred at BEST RESIDENCE HALL on 10/06/09 19:40

Case number 0900001677.3

Nature of crime Assault/ Battery/Simple (Incl Domestic and Police

This crime was reported on 10/13/2009 at 02:27 hours.

Case number 0900002022.2

Nature of crime Assault/ Battery/Simple (Incl Domestic and Police

This crime was reported on 11/20/2009 at 06:47 hours.

This crime occurred at PHELPS RESIDENCE HAL on 11/20/09 06:47

I retrieved these within a few minutes of search. Eastern Michigan University is not the only campus with these same problems. In 2008 the University of Michigan reported the following:

- 36 forcible rapes

- 6 robberies
- 20 aggravated assaults
- 3 arsons
- 41 burglaries

In December of 2006 Laura Dickenson was raped and murdered in her own dormitory at Eastern Michigan University. The University came out and claimed it to be an accident, but later arrested a suspect in relation to her rape and murder. How are college students supposed to feel safe and trust in a school that has lied like this in the past? Surely there must be another way for students to protect themselves from being killed, raped, robbed, or assaulted. There is, and it is guaranteed in the United States Bill of Rights.

*"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."*

In plain English, our founding fathers drafted a supposed unalienable right to keep and bare arms for the purpose of security. As I attended college and read the email alerts of crime that targeted college students, security was the furthest thing from my mind. Had these students been able to keep and bear arms, things might have been different for them. In 2007 it was estimated that guns prevented a total of 2.5 million crimes. (Gun Facts, Guy Smith, 2009.) Since 2006 secondary education campuses in Utah have allowed concealed carry on campus. Since then, none of these campuses have had a single gun related murder, theft, or any other type of gun related crime.

SB 747 as I understand would allow secondary education campuses to allow their students to carry a concealed weapon on campus if they were indeed licensed to do so. This is no different than those same students carrying a concealed weapon legally in a movie theatre, shopping mall, restaurant, or any other public place. As I stated, guns are proven to prevent crime. Further inquiry into the subject can be found in Targeting Guns by Gary Kleck. I wish to voice my opinion and hope that you listen to reason in furthering SB 747 to a vote in the Michigan Legislature. This is the legislature that students at Michigan's various college campuses should have in order to protect their rights. Thank you very much for your concern.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Desentz

Dear Legislator,

I have never contacted a legislator before in my life, however, I heard a slight mention of the introduction of Senate bill 747 on WJR this morning. I am a 28 year old MBA Graduate Student at Wayne State University, a Father, a Husband of a Wayne State University employee, a casino(another restricted area) and I have a CPL. My job as a husband is to protect my wife and my family, I have a wonderful municipal police department in my community and my wife and I are capable if we fear for our lives to protect ourselves in our home, or for myself outside of the home .

I am not a member of any activist or non-partisan groups that lobby for gun rights though I am very happy that these groups exist. As a Wayne State student when there are any major crimes such as assault or ROBBERY we are immediately sent an email with information. The most recent occurrence was just a week or so ago where two students were robbed at gunpoint of their violin, cash, wallet, briefcase and a few other items.

There have been many times that when they state the time/place of the incident and that if my wife or myself were there 2-5 minutes earlier we would have witnessed or possibly been the victim. Many times when I receive these emails there is a disclaimer at the end specifying what to do if you are a victim. My god, the disclaimer almost seems like a good entrepreneurial venture, it says give everything, don't fight back, etc. etc. but again even if they did, with what? CCW classes are not classes that teach just how to pull a trigger but to avoid being a victim in the first place. The fact that my pistol is locked in my trunk(because it is against the law to carry on campus), in the parking lot while I am walking to class in very dangerous neighborhood makes me sick. I share the library with homeless people that are often relentless in their desire for charity. My wife(who runs a Pharmaceutical Lab) will often find drug addicts roaming the halls looking for anything to steal or get high off of. She is afraid to eat her lunch or even put her chair back in her car to take a nap on her lunch break.

Crime spikes every year when unsuspecting freshmen enter school and quickly the bad guys swarm knowing that the students are told not to fight back. Many are robbed with knives, or told they have a gun etc. and this is just the Detroit area. I have been chased down an alley when i was 18 in Ann Arbor(on U-M's Campus) by a man trying to rob me. None of this is with mention to what has happened around the nation with outraged gunmen that could have been stopped earlier had a student been able to carry a weapon legally.

I would like to thank you very much for your support of this bill and would like to know if there is anyway that I can help get this bill passed into law. I will be sending this letter to the representatives in districts where I live and hope to hear back from you or your staff with any information on how I may be able to help your cause.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Rossi Jr.  
313-999-0516  
313-999-0516





December 8, 2009



My name is David Burnett, I'm a spokesman and coordinator with Students for Concealed Carry on Campus. I strongly urge you to pass this bill to the floor for a full vote for the following reasons:

- 1) Only citizens authorized by the state of Michigan would be affected by this bill.
- 2) Citizens, neighbors and constituents who have been vetted and confirmed by the procedures this legislature put in place have a right to self-defense recognized and affirmed by the state. The need for self-defense does not end in a dormitory or classroom.
- 3) This bill will create no added risk to students, faculty or staff at the colleges of the state. Concealed pistol licensees have proven responsible citizens willing to comply with and fulfill complex legal requirements, and who have not committed any one of the multiple offenses that would invalidate their license.
- 4) All of the mass shootings this country has had the misfortune of witnessing have all occurred under the same sign: "No Guns Allowed." Whether student, resident, professor or visitor, no one should be denied the right to self-defense.

As a student, citizen, voter and armed American, I strongly urge you to pass this bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns you may have on this very important issue. I can be reached at [David.Burnett@concealedcampus.org](mailto:David.Burnett@concealedcampus.org) or on my personal cell phone, (859) 576-7522.

Thank you for your time.

David Burnett  
Regional Director  
Students for Concealed Carry on Campus



December 8, 2009

Dear Senator Richardville:

I'm sorry for the late reponse, hopefully you receive this in time to present at the committee hearing. If not, hopefully it serves to give you more support personally in your work to get this important bill passed.

As a young female on a college campus, there were many times that I, and many others, felt threatened and unsafe. My best friend was mugged in the middle of the day outside of McKenny Union at Eastern Michigan University. I had to ask male friends to escort me across campus in to prevent any sort of assault. And, as a former resident hall advisor, I saw a constant flow of strangers in the dormitories and found it was very difficult to ensure the safety of all my residents unless they had some way to defend themselves.

Restrictions on carrying concealed weapon permits only keep the law abiding citizens from carrying, they do nothing to prevent someone who has no concern for the law from taking a weapon to any place they choose. We have statistics in Michigan showing that the number of incidents involving someone who has a concealed pistol license is miniscule. As a CPL holder, I know the value of educating myself and others about safe gun practices will help to make more people safe and can save lives in emergency situations.

This is important legislation that could save lives. Surely a tragedy like VA Tech could happen at any college campus, and if so, it would be my distinct hope that someone could responsibly end any sort of altercation by carrying a weapon legally and using it properly.

Most sincerely,

Beth Niethammer  
Saline, Michigan